

The claims have not been amended in the response. Only the status identifiers have been changed to reflect the Examiner's partial withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

1. (Previously Presented) An oil spill containment system for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, comprising:

a containment basin;

a layer of oil absorbing material contained within said basin;

a layer of oil adsorbing material also contained within said containment basin, on top of said layer of oil absorbing material; and

an oil and water permeable membrane or fabric between said layer of oil adsorbing material and said layer of oil absorbing material.

2. (Previously Presented) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said layer of oil absorbing material comprises a material capable of encapsulating hydrocarbons and dielectric insulating fluids.

3. (Previously Presented) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said layer of oil adsorbing material comprises a solid capable of adsorbing or retaining mineral oil and other dielectric insulating fluids.

4. (Original) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said layer of oil absorbing material comprises a granular layer of an oil absorbing material and/or an absorbent pad containing the oil absorbing material.

5. (Original) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a layer of fire retardant material covering said layer of oil adsorbing material.

6. (Previously Presented) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 5, further comprising an oil and water permeable membrane between said layer of oil adsorbing material and said layer of fire retardant material.

7. (Original) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a layer of aggregate material positioned beneath said layer of oil absorbing material.

8. (Original) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a water permeable membrane between said layer of oil absorbing material and said layer of aggregate material.

9. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) An oil spill containment system for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, comprising:

a support structure defining a plurality of cells;

an oil absorbing material received in the cells of said support structure;

an oil adsorbing material received in the cells of said support structure on top of said oil absorbing material; and

an oil and water permeable membrane or fabric between said cells receiving oil adsorbing material and said cells receiving oil absorbing material.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said support structure comprises a geosynthetic material.

12. (Withdrawn) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said oil absorbing material comprises an oil absorbing granular polymer and/or an oil absorbing porous solid material.

13. (Withdrawn) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said oil absorbing material comprises a material capable of encapsulating hydrocarbons and dielectric insulating fluids.

14. (Withdrawn) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said oil adsorbing material comprises a solid capable of retaining mineral oil and other dielectric insulating fluids.

15. (Withdrawn) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a layer of fire retardant material covering said support structure.

16. (Withdrawn) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said layer of fire retardant material comprises crushed limestone.

17. (Withdrawn) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said oil spill containment system is received in a containment basin beneath and around the oil containing vessel.

18. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) An oil spill containment system for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, comprising:

a geosynthetic material defining a plurality of cells, including:

an oil absorbing material received in the cells of said geosynthetic material;

an oil adsorbing material received in the cells of said geosynthetic material;

an oil and water permeable membrane or fabric between said cells receiving oil absorbing material and cells receiving oil adsorbing material; and

a geotextile fabric covering said geosynthetic material, said geotextile fabric being permeable to oil and water.

19. (Withdrawn) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said oil absorbing material comprises a material capable of encapsulating hydrocarbons and dielectric insulating fluids, and wherein said oil adsorbing material comprises a solid capable of retaining mineral oil and other dielectric insulating fluids.

20. (Withdrawn) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a layer of fire retardant material covering said geotextile fabric.

21. (Withdrawn) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said layer of fire retardant material comprises crushed limestone.

22. (Previously Presented) An oil retention tray for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, comprising:

an elongate tray having a mesh bottom and being open at the top thereof;

a layer of oil absorbing material received on said mesh bottom;

a layer of oil adsorbing material covering said layer of oil absorbing material; and

an oil and water permeable membrane or fabric between said layer of oil adsorbing material and said layer of oil absorbing material.

23. (Original) The oil retention tray as claimed in claim 22, wherein said layer of oil absorbing material comprises an absorbent pad containing an oil absorbing granular polymer and/or an oil absorbing porous solid material

24. (Original) The oil retention tray as claimed in claim 23, further comprising an oil and water permeable membrane covering said layer of oil adsorbing material, and an oil and water impermeable membrane covering the sides of said oil elongate tray.

25. (Original) The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 24, further comprising a layer of fire retardant material covering said oil and water permeable membrane.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing an oil spill containment system for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, wherein the oil spill containment system is received in a containment basin, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a layer of oil absorbing material within the containment basin;

providing an oil and water permeable membrane or fabric on top of said layer of oil absorbing material; and

providing a layer of oil adsorbing material on top of said oil and water permeable membrane or fabric and within said containment basin.

29. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the step of covering the layer of aggregate material with a water permeable membrane.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises a material capable of encapsulating hydrocarbons and dielectric insulating fluids, and wherein the oil adsorbing material comprises a solid capable of retaining mineral oil and other dielectric insulating fluids.

32. (Previously Presented) The oil spill containment system according to claim 1, wherein the oil absorbing material comprises an oil absorbing copolymer.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the containment basin is positioned beneath and around the oil containing vessel prior to the forming step.